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TITLE

"DEVICE FOR PLACING FLIP CHIPS ON A SUBSTRATE"

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The invention relates to a device for placing flip chips on a substrate or base in the form of a leadframe. The device has a movable placement head, which picks up the flip chips from a stock of components and places them on the base or substrate.

10 Flip chips of this type are usually presented with their connection elements pointing upward. What are known as wafer handlers are provided with a turning device for the flip chips, so that the placement head, which can move in a placement plane, of a placement device can pick up the flip chips in their correct insertion position and place them onto a printed-circuit board at the intended position for this purpose.

15 The flip chips are presented, for example in accordance with JP 161027 A (cf. Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 13, No. 270, of July 21, 1989), in a wafer with their connection elements pointing upward. A movable removal head of a wafer handler removes the flip chips from the wafer and deposits the chips on a stationary turning device, by means of which the chips are deposited in a turned position on a transfer station, from which the removal head picks them up and places them in the
20 correct insertion position with the connections downward onto a semiconductor substrate, which is usually in the form of a strip-like leadframe for the production of packaged components and is passed through the placement station in a cyclical manner.

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US 5 839 187 discloses a device for the handling of flip chips, in which the flip chips are removed from a wafer by means of a gripper. The gripper is pivoted about a horizontal axis and, turned in a transfer station to invert the chip which is then transferred to a positioning gripper, which deposits the flip chips into a flat magazine.

US 5 667 129 A (claim 7) discloses a placement head for placing flip chips on a substrate, and the placement head has a turning device (not represented in any more detail) for the flip chips.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention is based on the object of reducing the complexity of a device for the placement of components on the substrates.

This object is achieved by a device which has a movable placement head which has a turret with a plurality of grippers mounted for rotation on a stationary part, which has a turning device adjacent the path of movement of the grippers. The turning device takes a chip from a gripper in a first holding station, turns the chip and returns the turned chip to a gripper downstream of the first holding station.

The freely positionable placement head can be moved in a positioning system in such a way that its range of movement covers the entire area of the wafer and the fixed substrate, for example in the form of a printed-circuit board. The placement head can therefore remove the flip chips directly from the wafer, move over to the substrate, turn the chip in the accompanying turning device in the time between the pickup and placement on the substrate and, after turning the chip, place

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the flip chip onto the substrate. This measure allows all the essential functions of the pickup, transportation, turning and placement of the components to be carried out with a single handling system in a time-saving manner, and makes it possible to dispense entirely with the wafer handler. The use of a turret placement head makes
5 it possible to pick up a multiplicity of flip chips in rapid succession from the wafer and turn them between two holding stations. Subsequently, the multiplicity of flip chips held on the grippers are placed on the substrate in just as rapid succession. This considerably reduces the number of movement operations, which reduction is accompanied by a corresponding time saving. The placement head also has the
10 advantage that a single turning station is required for all the components held on the grippers and that the respective gripper does not have to wait for the complete turning operation, but instead the component is passed on to the next station as the component is turned and can be picked up again without losing any cycle time.

The development of the turning device having two pivotable holders with
15 one aligned with the first holding station and the other aligned with a downstream station and the two holders being pivoted to face each other in a mutual transfer station realizes the turning device in a simple way with few additional elements.

The development of the grippers being suction grippers extending radially from the turret and the two holders being suction pipettes mounted to pivot on axes
20 extending perpendicular to the radially extending grippers and arranged on an axial extension of the grippers allows flip chips to be safely transferred between the various suction surfaces.

The development of the gripping ends of the holders while in the transfer position being spaced apart a distance greater than the thickness of the flip chip allows flip chips of different thicknesses to be handled without readjustments.

5 The development of the first and second holding stations being adjacent each other allows the turning device to be of a compact and lightweight design.

The invention is explained in more detail below on the basis of an exemplary embodiment represented in the drawing.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 Figure 1 shows in a schematized form a side view of a placement head for flip chips;

Figure 2 shows another side view of the placement head according to figure 1; and

Figure 3 shows a detail of the placement head according to figure 1 in another working phase.

15 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

According to figures 1 and 2, a turret-like placement head 1 has a stator 2 and a rotor 3, on which a multiplicity of radially protruding grippers 4 are arranged in a circulating manner. The placement head 1 is freely positionable in the direction of the perspectively represented arrows X and Y in a plane parallel to the wafer and
20 the substrate. In the position represented in figure 1, it is located over a wafer 5, on

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the upper side of which flip chips 6 are presented close together in rows with their connection side facing upward.

The gripper 4, located in the lower turning position, is directed at one of the flip chips 6 and can be telescopically lowered onto it. The flip chip is sucked onto the end of the gripper and lifted together with the latter off the wafer 5. By moving the placement head 1 and turning the rotor 3, all the grippers 4 can be successively loaded with the flip chips 6. One of the holding stations of the grippers, which is shown as a gripper 4a, is assigned a first holder 7, which is aligned by its end with the end of the gripper 4a.

The flip chip 6 sucked onto the gripper 4a can then be transferred to the holder 7 and sucked onto the end of the latter. By pivoting the holder 7 into a transfer position, represented by dash-dotted lines, the flip chip 6 can be transferred to a further or second holder 7a, which is directed oppositely facing the first holder and which then takes up the flip chip 6 on its connection side or gripping end. The second holder 7a is assigned to a downstream holding station of the placement head 1, which has a gripper 4b. It can be pivoted out of the transfer position into a delivery position, which is in line with the gripper 4b of the second holding station and in which the gripper 4b receives the component on its upper side, facing away from the connection side.

In figure 3 it is shown how the flip chip 6 can be transferred between the holders 7 and 7a and turned in a time-saving manner during the rotation of the rotor 3.

After the turning of the flip chips 6, they are successively transported into a placement position, represented in figure 2, in which they can be placed in the correct position onto a substrate or base 8 to be provided with placed components.

FIG. 2